



FACT SHEET: THE JANUARY 30TH IRAQI ELECTIONS

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Iraq's January 30 election is the next step on the road to a secure, prosperous, and democratic Iraq.

- The elections should: (1) be free, credible, and legitimate; (2) advance the development of a constitution representing the will of the Iraqi people that embraces the freedoms and principles of democratic systems of government; and (3) result in a representative government committed to peace, stability, and democracy in Iraq and throughout the region.
- Building a democracy in Iraq will require time and experience, but this election is an important milestone and proof that Iraqis want to exercise their democratic rights, even under very difficult conditions.
- Decisions for the planning of this election are being made by Iraqis for Iraqis.
- The United States and the international community support the Iraqi people's aspirations for freedom.
- The Iraqi people have suffered greatly during the more than three decades of Ba'thist tyranny. They are no strangers to violence and intimidation. So despite threats of violence, Iraqis will seek to shape their future by exercising their right to vote.
- **Key Facts**
 - On January 30, 2005, the Iraqi people will elect a 275-member Transitional National Assembly (TNA), with the goal of having at least 25 percent female representation. The TNA will:
 - Serve as Iraq's national legislature for a transition period.
 - Name a Presidency Council, consisting of a President and two Vice Presidents (the Presidency Council will appoint a Prime Minister) and approve the appointment of the Prime Minister and his/her selection of cabinet ministers.)
 - Draft Iraq's new constitution, which will be presented to the Iraqi people for their approval in a national referendum in October 2005. (Under the new constitution, Iraq is expected to elect a fully constitutional government in December 2005.)
 - A provisional voter registration list of nearly 14 million names, based on the food ration public distribution database, has been completed. The voter registration process consists of validating, and possibly adding, names or correcting information on the provisional voter registration list. Iraqis had until December 15 to complete this process.
 - More than 500 voter registration centers were established to help Iraqis verify their registration. Iraqis will vote on Election Day in thousands of voting centers across Iraq.
 - More than 100 political entities have submitted candidate lists. Nine coalitions of political parties, 74 individual political parties, and several independents representing a broad cross-section of Iraq have registered to participate in the January 30 election, demonstrating enthusiasm for the political process.
 - The Transitional National Assembly election will be conducted according to a closed list proportional representation system with the entire country considered as a single electoral district.

- In addition to the election of a Transitional National Assembly, the Transitional Administrative Law calls for the election of provincial councils and a Kurdistan National Assembly. These elections will also be held on January 30.
- The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) was established to supervise the elections and ensure a fair and transparent process.
- The UN Electoral Assistance Division is advising the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq. Other non-governmental organizations are providing technical support and assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq and the Iraqi Interim Government.
- The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq and various non-governmental organizations are engaged in a voter education campaign.
- The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq has 150 staff at its national headquarters, 126 at governorate offices, 120 trainers, and more than 6,000 electoral workers at the Voter Registration Centers throughout Iraq.
- The role of the United States and the Coalition is limited and consists primarily of providing financial support for the cost of the mechanics of the election. The United States has provided more than \$40 million to help the Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq conduct elections. Japan has pledged \$40 million and the EU pledged \$38 million for the election effort.
- International support for Iraq's elections is essential. Military forces from 28 nations are working alongside Iraqi forces, helping to establish stability and security throughout Iraq. Coalition forces will continue to provide area security for polling day.

After the January 30, 2005 election:

- The votes will be tabulated and winners declared.
- The Transitional National Assembly is expected to be seated in mid-February.
- The Assembly will appoint a Presidency Council, consisting of a President and two Deputy Presidents.
- The Presidency Council will appoint a Prime Minister and, on his or her recommendation, cabinet ministers to run the Iraqi government's various ministries.
- The Prime Minister and his cabinet must receive a vote of confidence by a simple majority of the Transitional National Assembly before commencing work as a government.
- The Transitional National Assembly will draft a new Iraqi constitution.
- The draft constitution is to be presented for approval to the Iraqi people in a national referendum in October 2005.

By the end of 2005, the Iraqi people are expected to elect a new national government under a new, permanent constitution.